

THE ALMA RECORD

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF ALMA, MICHIGAN

MURDER

Murder is a cold hard word that strikes terror to the heart whenever we hear it and we are hearing and seeing it all too often in these days. For the past week or ten days it has been almost a household word in Alma because of the especially brutal murder committed in the city on the night of February 5th, which took the life of Mrs. Thomas Crowe and left five small children motherless.

Oscar Collins is now in the county jail charged with that murder, and there is much evidence which points to him as the person guilty of the heinous crime.

It is difficult to comprehend the working of a human mind that could or would determine upon the perpetration of such a cruel crime, but such crimes are becoming so common that they are reported almost daily in the newspapers of the land. They are only one of the many signs that something is radically wrong with our civilization.

Something must be done to curb the tendency to crime in this country and that something must be for the public to back up and co-operate with the officials in the exposure of crime and the enforcement of law. The greatest credit is due to Chief of Police Vibber and his assistants, to Sheriff Willert and his deputies, and to Prosecutor O. L. Smith for the very efficient manner in which they handled the late Alma murder case. With very little as a clue aside from the fact that the woman was found dead, they set to work and kept at it night and day until they had secured sufficient evidence to warrant an arrest and the evidence in the case seems to fully justify their judgment.

To get evidence against a supposed criminal that will justify arrest and ultimately result in conviction is not an easy task, for officials are always handicapped by an effort to cover or eradicate all evidence, and further by the fact that everyone has a theory of his own, and at once more or less ignorant criticism of the officials begins which makes the getting of evidence more difficult still.

In the present murder case there are some things worthy of our serious thought. First amongst these is the insinuating criticism of Alma and Gratiot county officials in the Detroit Free Press and Lansing State Journal, which criticism we consider untruthful, meddlesome, and unjust. Both papers insinuated that local officers were lying down on the job, whereas as a matter of fact they were working night and day solving the riddle and handicapped by the sentiment stirred up in the community by meddlesome outsiders and the maudlin talk of appealing to the governor, the attorney general or someone else, all of which was apparently intended to discredit local officials.

Common horse-sense ought to tell anyone that the officials investigating a crime could not give their evidence to newspaper reporters to be hawked about on the streets and spread broadcast over the state, without injury to the case and increased difficulty of getting evidence. Should an Alma reporter go to Detroit or Lansing, butt in on the police and insist on knowing everything the police knew and threaten to call the governor, if he was not told all these details, he would in all probability be arrested as a disturber. At all events he would, at least, be told to mind his own business.

Both Detroit and Lansing, very unfortunately, have their full share of crime and if their reporters want to butt in and tell the officials what to do, and insinuate that they are lying down on the job, or even if they want to call the governor and the attorney general, they have plenty of opportunity to exercise their talents at home. The officers of Alma and Gratiot county have fully demonstrated in the present case that they are capable of looking after our criminals without any outside interference or without calling upon the governor or being harassed by cub reporters.

It is just barely possible that the reporters tell the Detroit and Lansing police what to do and that may account for so many get-aways, but we think that the police in those cities manage their own cases without calling the reporters aside and telling them all the facts and asking their advice.

The next thing for us to consider is that it is the duty of every citizen to co-operate with the officials in exposing crime and arresting criminals. It has been stated in Alma many times in the past week that booze selling has been going on for several months. Many people say they knew it, and that the murder case is the outcome of it. If that is the case every citizen who had definite knowledge of the booze selling and failed to notify the officials and co-operate to stop secret violation of the law has contributed toward the murder by neglecting his duty as an American citizen.

It is true that officials are sworn to enforce the law, but it is also true that the officials are watched all of the time by crooks and it is more difficult for them to get evidence. This murder is a most regrettable incident, but it should spur each one of us on to demand better citizenship and to co-operate in a more stringent enforcement of the law. The city of Alma and the county of Gratiot are to be congratulated upon having officials who are honest, diligent, fearless, and efficient.

PRISON LAW ENFORCEMENT

Investigations recently made, have revealed the fact that there has been a general laxity all over the country, lately, in regard to the enforcement of prison law. Repeatedly, criminals convicted of serious crimes have served only a short sentence and have then been pardoned from one cause or another and set free to roam about over the country and repeat their crimes or commit worse ones still, thinking to meet a similar treatment if detected and convicted.

This condition of things, while brought about, no doubt, because of a desire upon the part of the officials concerned to give the criminal another chance, or because of too great a trust in human nature, has without a question done much to aid in swelling the great wave of crime which seems to be sweeping over our country at the present time.

Now the great mass of the people at large in this country deserve and should have protection from dangerous characters in this manner left at liberty to repeat their crimes. Society must be protected, and in consequence, it would seem that the enactment of more stringent laws in regard to crime is necessary. But still more necessary is a strict enforcement of law. Just as long as the lawbreaker in general feels that if detected in his crime, he will receive a light penalty, or that the penalty imposed will not be required of him to its full extent, just so long will crime be encouraged instead of swept away, and society in general will be in greater and greater danger.

We read so much in all the newspapers of crime in all its phases, about divorce, about general lawlessness that we sometimes almost forget that the sky is still blue, that the weather has been fine, that an all-wise Providence still controls the world and that all will still come right provided each individual does his part and lives up to the very best that lies within him.

To be thrifty and provident, the wise man looks to the future and limits his expenditures so that he may lay him by in store something for a rainy day that usually comes to each and every one. It is easy to contract the spending habit, but not so easy to contract the saving habit if one really goes systematically about it.

A lazy man is as good as a dead man, but he takes up more room.

OBITUARY

We are called to pay homage to a well known and highly esteemed pioneer of Gratiot county. Celista Gavitt was born in Norfolk Co., Canada, March 22, 1838, and came to Michigan in 1860. She married Nathaniel Anderson who is numbered with the honored dead of the Civil War. To them three children were born, Samuel and Orion dying in infancy and Willard followed his brothers in death when at the age of eighteen years. In the year of 1867, she again pledged the bond of matrimony becoming the wife of her brother-in-law, William Anderson. They resided on a farm in Summer township until the fall of 1919 when once more she became a widow. Mrs. Anderson passed into the great beyond Feb. 9, 1921, leaving behind a fragrant memory of ideals such as few women have been able to send forth. Those who understand the language conveyed through the finer issue of things have found something not only to enjoy but to reverence in her annual display of fruit and bloom. Methink we saw a vision of joys tomorrow in her soul-love for flowers. Several years ago she affiliated with the Christian church and ever since she has been a zealous reader of religious literature and a follower of christian principles. During recent years she became interested in the Alma Garden Club, being Honorary President ever since its organization and was the only honorary member the club ever had. Her demise finds one daughter, Mrs. Wm. Gee, one grandson, Willard Gee, one brother, Mr. Albert Gavitt, and one sister, Mrs. Frances Dieter, with other relatives and a host of friends to mourn and miss her.

FARM BUREAU NEWS

Thursday, February 10, the Farm Bureau members around St. Louis met to discuss the cooperative elevator proposition. The people of St. Louis very kindly furnished the hall; which shows the business men are awake to the needs of the time. The ladies prepared a dinner long to be remembered. Under such conditions the meeting could not help but be a success. Mr. McMertrie, County Agent of Midland, and Mr. Patch of M. A. C. and the Gratiot County Farm Bureau Manager were present and all explained the elevator proposition as they saw it.

Another meeting was arranged for Thursday the 24th in the courtroom at which time the organization will be completed. All interested in a co-operative elevator at St. Louis should be present.

The Forest Hill Elevator Association plan to hold a meeting at Pine River Town Hall February 22 at 7:30 p. m. They are well along with their organization and all members should take part in this meeting.

The Farm Bureau members around Alma will meet at 1:30 February 22 to consider the question of forming a local organization and any other matter of interest to the members. Riverdale is planning a meeting soon at which a representative of Michigan Agricultural College will be present to explain the co-operative marketing problem. This question is interesting the farmers of the U. S. as nothing else ever did.

At that meeting the very latest ideas will be presented by a man from the college and all farmers should avail themselves of this opportunity.

OBITUARY

Horatio N. Stearns passed away at his home Feb. 13, 1921, at the age of 70 years, seven months and nine days.

He was born at Phelps, Ontario county, New York, July 4th, 1850, and at an early age moved with his parents to Ohio. In 1863, the family came to Michigan where he has resided since, in Ferris township most of the time.

March 5th, 1871, he was united in marriage to Etta J. Omans and to this union were born five children. One, Addie M., preceded him to the Beyond 19 years ago.

He leaves his wife, two sons, Alfred L. of Ferris, Mich., Owen J. of this city and two daughters, Mrs. O. J. Hyde and Mrs. C. C. Kramer both in this city, also eight grandchildren and many friends to mourn a great loss.

He united with the Methodist Episcopal church when young and has been a life long worker in the Sunday school, being superintendent of the Sunday school at Summer, for six years previous to his removing to Alma. He was a kind and affectionate husband and father.

"ANGEL OF ELLIS ISLAND"

Miss Martha Troeck, known as the Angel of Ellis Island, will speak at the Baptist church, Sunday night at 7 o'clock. Miss Troeck has spent years of active service at Ellis Island in New York Harbor, the gate of foreign immigration to America. Few persons are as well informed on the foreign immigration question through actual experience as Miss Troeck, who speaks more than a dozen foreign dialects.

She is a very attractive, interesting and forceful speaker, thoroughly in earnest concerning this important subject. The public is invited. Come and bring your friends.

The Baptist church is being arranged so as to accommodate a large crowd. No special offering or no special appeal for money will be made.

BUICKS WIN

The Buick basketball team of Flint was a winner over the basketball team representing the George W. Myers Post No. 132, American Legion, of this city on the high school court Thursday evening by a score of 28 to 14. The Buick aggregation put up a fine game from start to finish, and completely outclassed the Alma aggregation, which however was not surprising in view of the fact that during the holidays the Buicks defeated M. A. C. The Legion came played a stellar game from start to finish, and did not disappoint their supporters in the least.

A WOMAN'S BACK

The Advice of This Alma Woman is of Certain Value.

Many a woman's back has many aches and pains. Oftentimes 'tis the kidneys' fault. That's why Doan's Kidney Pills are so effective. Ask your neighbor? Many Alma women know this. Read what one has to say about it: Mrs. William Story, 505 River Ave., Alma, says: "About a year ago I was bothered with my back. Sharp, darting pains seemed to go all through my back and I was in misery, when I went to dust or sweep. My back was lame and sore and when I tried to stoop or lift anything, terrible pains caught me and I could hardly straighten. I had dizzy spells and many times spots came before me. I suffered with headaches and my kidneys were so bad that I was always tired and too weak to do my work. I heard of Doan's Kidney Pills and got a few boxes at Murphy's Drug Store. They entirely cured me." Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mrs. Story had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.—87-2w

EMERSON

Ray Kiefer has purchased the Shunk farm and has already moved to the new place.

The Ladies Aid Society met at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Slaybaugh on Wednesday of last week. Over thirty were in attendance at the meeting. The Aid presented Rev. and Mrs. Slaybaugh with a nice comfort.

Miss Raymon spent the week end at her home in Pleasant Valley.

Clarence Wiser has moved to a farm near Lansing, which he has rented.

Lew Mann and Elmer White held an auction sale at the home of Elmer White Wednesday.

Miss Hazel Mann and her brother, Ophir, have returned to Alma after having spent several weeks here with their sister, Mrs. Pearl Griffith.

A. Rench and family of Shepherd spent Thursday at the Roy Griffith home.

Carl Siefka is sawing a number of logs into lumber.

Mrs. King of Lansing spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. W. T. Clark, who is ill here.

Mr. and Mrs. Reed are entertaining their nephew of Alma this week.

There will be a social gathering at the church Tuesday evening. Everyone who attends is requested to bring lunch. All are welcome.

SETHTON

Quite a number from here are spending their evenings at Middleton attending revival meetings at the M. E. church.

Next to the last item in last week's issue should have read: Mr. and Mrs. Steve Shepherd are entertaining their daughter and family from Detroit.

Mrs. Hattie Hyatt is nursing in Carson City.

Mrs. Minnie Lock and Iris Gardner spent Saturday afternoon in Ithaca visiting Mrs. Henry Keiser.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jarvis and Mrs. Hyatt and grandson, Wilson Gardner, spent Tuesday in the Charles Holiday home on Egypt St.

James Hyatt of Muskegon is visiting friends here for a few days.

Woodrow Upham is a new scholar at the school.

The six months old baby boy of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace died early on Sunday morning at the Steve Shepherd home, after a few days illness of pneumonia.

RELIEF CORPS MEETING

The Relief Corps, No. 183, met at the L. O. O. F. hall last week and was called to order by the president, Mrs. Alice Carner. After the usual order of business one candidate was initiated into the corps and five names were brought up for membership. The program consisted of several readings and good stories told of Abraham Lincoln and a recitation by Mrs. Elizabeth Bentley, which was much enjoyed by all. The G. A. R. were invited in and they told what they saw of Abe during their time in the army. After the meeting, a bountiful lunch was served to about fifty.

THREE POINT MARGIN

The Midland high school basketball team defeated Coach Mullin's tossers here Friday evening in a hot contest by a score of 16 to 13, and there was hardly a time during the entire game that more than a three point margin separated the teams. The locals did not show the rare form that they displayed against Mt. Pleasant High and some of the other teams that have been played, but played a consistent battle from start to finish. The one possible disappointment of the game from an Alma viewpoint was the fact that the defense did not seem to possess the strength that it has shown in former encounters.

CARD OF THANKS

In their recent bereavement, the death of their beloved mother, Mrs. Celista Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. William Gee and son, Willard, wish to thank their many neighbors and friends, for their help and sympathy and their beautiful flowers, also Mr. Wright, and Reverend May for his comforting words.

You have decided to buy only at a grocery that will handle Butter-Nut bread and find that they occasionally send out other bread, well that is because Butter-Nut sells well and your grocer having run short is compelled to substitute until he can get another supply of fresh Butter-Nut bread from the bakery.

Jewelry Designing Taught

Jewelry designing is taught in some of the schools of Cincinnati.

ELWELL

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Densmore from near North Star has moved on his farm south of town which he purchased some time ago from Mr. Ball.

Mrs. McLachlan and son, Jack, visited friends at Riverdale one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mallory and baby, Jack, of Alma are visiting relatives in this vicinity this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Olmstead were Alma callers Friday evening.

Mrs. Chris Downs visited her mother, Mrs. Sprague, at Vestaburg Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Waber and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tofft were Alma callers Friday.

Mr. Roberson of Illinois has purchased the Chas. Singluff place south of town and has moved his family here this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Havens entertained their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Shellhaas, of St. Louis last week.

A party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Osborn Friday evening. About 30 were present. The evening was spent in dancing and playing cards, after which refreshments were served.

The Young Folk's Club met at the Gleason hall Monday evening. After the business meeting cards and dancing were the order of the evening.

A pot luck dinner was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Marlie Singluff attended the funeral of a Mrs. Singluff's uncle at St. Johns Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Kelly of St. Louis were Elwell callers Wednesday evening.

Mack Langworthy is reported a little better at this writing.

Mrs. Wm. Anderson passed away at her farm home south of town early Wednesday morning at the age of 83. Mrs. Anderson had been sick but a short time with pneumonia. Funeral was held Saturday afternoon at the residence. She was laid at rest in the Pritchard cemetery.

Mrs. Geo. Bailey of Yale is visiting relatives and friends in this vicinity this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith of Alma were callers in Elwell Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Herbert Gilpin is on the sick list this week.

Mrs. Baker is on the sick list.

The Record can do your Job Printing—call or telephone—adv.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot. Estate of Seth A. Tubbs, Deceased. Philip W. Cramer, Administrator of said Estate, has filed in this Court his Final Account, and the same will be heard at the Probate Office on the 27th day of March, 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. All persons interested are requested to be present on that day and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed. Dated February 14th, 1921. (Signed) JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate.

A true copy. MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate. 85-4w

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot. Estate of Seth A. Tubbs, Deceased. Philip W. Cramer, Trustee of said Estate, has filed in this Court his Final Account, and the same will be heard at the Probate Office on the 27th day of March, 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon. All persons interested are requested to be present on that day and show cause, if any, why the same should not be allowed. Dated February 14th, 1921. (Signed) JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate.

A true copy. MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate. 85-4w

Estate of Caroline Rogers, Deceased. STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 26th day of January, 1921.

Present: James G. Kress, Judge.

In the matter of the estate of Caroline Rogers, Deceased.

The above estate having been admitted to Probate and William Rogers of Alma, Mich., appointed Administrator thereof.

It is ordered that four months from this date be allowed for creditors to present their claims against said estate and that such claims will be heard by said court on Monday the 15th day of June, 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

(Signed) JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate.

A true copy. MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate. 85-4w

claims will be heard by said court on Friday, the 21st day of May, 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

It is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of this order for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county. (Signed) JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate.

A true copy. MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate. 85-4w

Estate of H. Neil Elcher, Minor.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 26th day of January, A. D. 1921.

Present: Hon. James G. Kress, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of H. Neil Elcher, Minor.

Alphas F. Elcher, Guardian of said Minor, having filed in said court his petition, praying for license to sell the interest of said estate in certain real estate therein described.

It is ordered that the 26th day of February, A. D. 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition, and that all persons interested in said estate appear before said court, at said time and place, to show cause why a license to sell the interest of said estate in said real estate should not be granted.

It is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by a publication of a copy of this order for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

(Signed) JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate.

A true copy. MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate. 85-4w

Estate of Phyletus J. Adams, Deceased. HEARING CLAIMS.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Gratiot.

At a session of said court held at the Probate office in the village of Ithaca in said county, on the 10th day of February, 1921.

Present: Hon. James G. Kress, Probate Judge.

In the matter of the estate of Phyletus J. Adams, Deceased.

The above estate having been admitted to Probate and Charlotte M. Adams appointed administratrix thereof.

It is ordered that four months from this date be allowed for creditors to present their claims against said estate and that such claims will be heard by said court on Monday the 15th day of June, 1921, at ten o'clock in the forenoon.

It is further ordered that public notice thereof be given by publication of this order for three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in the Alma Record, a newspaper printed and circulated in said county.

A true copy. JAMES G. KRESS, Judge of Probate.

MILDRED E. TAFT, Register of Probate. 87-4w

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH ELECTRICITY LENGTHENED HER LIFE

YOU CAN LENGTHEN YOUR WIFE'S LIFE

and broaden her appreciation of you if you will buy for her the electrical necessities she has been longing for. Her friends have shown her electric curling irons, cooking utensils, adjustable lamps, vacuum cleaners, motors for sewing machines and a host of other indispensable. She wants 'em.

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Medler Electric Co.

Phone 86 Electric Supplies and Service

WRIGHT HOUSE BLACKSMITH SHOP

The Fair Play Shop

First-class work guaranteed. Prices Right.

Woodwork Shop in connection

Buckborough & DeGraw

Auction Sale

Having rented my farm located 2 miles west and 3 miles north of Alma, or 1 mile west and 1 mile south of Forest Hill, I will sell at public auction on

Tuesday, March 8

beginning at 10 o'clock; the following stock and tools:

- 1 grey mare, coming 8 yrs., about 1350 lb.
- 1 iron grey mare, coming 4 yrs., about 1300 lb.
- 1 black gelding, coming 5 yrs., about 1300 lb.
- 1 bay gelding, coming 4 yrs., about 1150 lb.
- 1 bay gelding, coming 6 yrs., about 1350 lb.
- 1 driving horse
- 1 black cow, 6 yrs., due in Sept.
- 1 black and white cow, 4 yrs., due in Mar.
- 1 spotted steer, yearling
- 1 red steer, yearling
- Blue roan heifer, yearling
- Grey roan heifer, yearling
- Red heifer, yearling
- Black heifer, yearling
- Black heifer, 2 years
- Black bull, coming 2 years
- 6 spring calves
- 6 shoats, 75 to 100 lbs.
- 7 sheep

FARM IMPLEMENTS

- Keystone hay loader
- Osborne delivery rake
- Osborne tedder
- Farmers' Favorite grain drill
- Superior disc grain drill
- Lansing disc
- 20th Century 2-horse cultivator
- Five-tooth cultivator
- Little Willie cultivator
- Spoke tooth cultivator
- Fowler's beet cultivator
- John Deere sulky plow
- Banner walking plow
- 2 spike drags
- Bean puller
- 1 weeder and other things too numerous to mention

TERMS OF SALE

All sums under \$5.00, cash; all sums over \$5.00, 10 months' time on good bankable paper at 7 per cent interest. 2 per cent discount given for cash on sums over \$5.

DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT NOON BY LADY MACCABEES

Wm. C. Sullivan, Prop'r.

J. D. HELMAN, Auctioneer

ARTHUR MURPHY, Clerk